

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/998,477

Examiner

Ghassem Alie

Applicant(s)

CURTSINGER, JOHN

Art Unit

3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08/13/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 59-65.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11/30/01 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 07/07/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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1. Upon further consideration, the rejections of claims 59-65 under 35 U.S.C. 130(a) over Hill (2,010,082) in view of Estkowski (4,696,394) and in further view of Havens et al. (5,033,253) are withdrawn. Because, these references do not teach that the heat shrinking material is directly contacting tips of the teeth of the saw blade as recited in claim 59 and argued in applicant's response filed on 08/13/04.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims are allowable because the prior art fails to teach that the heat shrinking material directly contacting tips of the teeth of the saw blade as set forth in claim 59.

Regarding claim 59, Hill teaches a saw blade including first and second sides, a peripheral edge, and a plurality of teeth that extend along the peripheral edge. Hill also teaches a cover that has first and second portions with opposite inner and outer surfaces. Hill also teaches that the first portion of the cover is facing the first side of the saw blade and the second portion of the cover is folded over the first portion with the inner surface of the second portion facing the second side of the saw blade. Hill also teaches that the teeth of the saw blade are secured between the first and second portions of the cover. However, Hill does not teach that the cover is made of heat shrinking material and is directly contacting tips of the teeth of the saw blade as set forth in claim 59.

Estkowski teaches a protective cover made of shrinking material for covering annular object. The cover has first and second portion with opposite inner and outer surfaces. The cover also is directly contacting the peripheral edge of the annular object. However

Estkowski also fails to teach to teach that the heat shrinking material directly contacting tips of the teeth of the saw blade as set forth in claim 59.

Havens et al. teaches a heat shrinking material covers a sharp point of an object. However, Havens et al. also does not teach that the heat shrinking material directly contacting tips of the teeth of the saw blade as set forth in claim 59.

None of these references by themselves or in combination with the other prior art cited teach the claimed invention set forth in claim 59.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ghassem Alie whose telephone number is (703) 305-4981. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap can be reached on (703) 305-1082. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9302 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

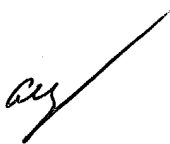
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GA/ga

November 8, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AS', followed by a long diagonal stroke.

Allan N. Shoap
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700